UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

TANZANIA MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES AUTHORITY

GUIDELINES ON PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS THROUGH NON-ROUTINE PROCEDURE

(Made under Regulation 4 (1) of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (Registration of Medicinal Products) Regulations, 2015)

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Dr. Yonah H. Mwalwisi
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN AND VETERINARY MEDICINES

Glossary of Terms

The following terms and phrases will be defined as follows with respect to the context of these guidelines:

Emergency medicines

Means medicines that are to be used during a Public Health Emergency of National Concern (PHENC) or International Concern (PHEIC) e.g., outbreaks, natural disasters and accidents

Epidemic

Means an increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area.

Pandemic

Means an epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting alarge number of people.

Emergency use

Means approval for use when public health emergency has been declared i.e., the use of a medicine (therapeutic), vaccine, or in vitro diagnostic or medicinal device) on patients in a life-threatening situation or condition, including chemical, radiologic or nuclear attack, in which no standard treatment or diagnostic is available, and in which there is no sufficient time to obtain product registration. Emergency use authorization procedure may also be applied in extreme situations such as during war.

Orphan medicinal product

Means a medicinal product designated as such under the terms and conditions set out under regulation 9 of the Tanzania and Medical Devices (Orphan Medicines) Regulations, 2018.

Orphan medicine designation

Means act of granting a request for designation under regulation 9 of the Tanzania and Medical Devices (Orphan Medicines) Regulations, 2018.

Unmet medical condition

Means a condition whose treatment or diagnosis is not addressed adequately by available therapy. An unmet medical need includes an immediate need for a defined population (i.e., to treat a serious condition with no or limited treatment) or a longer-term need for society (e.g., to address the development of resistance to antibacterial drugs).

Expedited review

Means a process where the approval time taken to review a medicinal product application that has been shortened where rapid access to new therapies needs to be made faster than routine timelines to save or dramatically improve patients' lives.

Unproven indication

Means an intervention for which there is insufficient evidence of safety and/or efficacy for regular use in a health system.

Priority medicines

Medicines new therapies for treatment of unmet medical conditions and medicines of whichthe indication is unproven or unsatisfactory.

Foreword

TMDA has established several pathways for review and approval of medicinal products for routine use. However, in desperate situations, rapid access to medicinal products including new therapies are needed for treatment of serious diseases or unmet medical conditions. This require an accelerated review pathway to ensure the required medicines are available on a timely manner.

In this situation, and as part of emergence preparedness, the Authority has developed these guidelines for handling applications for marketing authorization of medicinal products through non-routine procedure. The document aims to provide a clear operational guidance to the assessors and stakeholders on the data requirement and review process of applications submitted under non-routine process.

The document is integral to the structured and evidence-based review approach of applications under non-routine procedures. It serves to ensure a proper understanding of the non-routine pathway, the processes and eligibility criteria that govern its use, the data requirements, and review timelines. Furthermore, it provides transparency and expectations of the general public and other stakeholders on the rapid actions taken by the Authority to ensure the availability of medicines when critically needed.

The guidelines, together with supplementary procedures and guidance referenced herein, constitute a comprehensive body of knowledge that defines the end-to-end regulatory review and approval of medicinal products of public interest.

This is the first revision of the guidelines for processing of applications under a non-routine pathway which builds upon previous guidelines describing the procedures and requirements for handling non-routine applications. It also embodies the recommendations from WHO GBT assessors provided during the re-benchmarking of TMDA regulatory systems.

Importantly, this document consolidates, updates and elaborates topics from previous guidelines and introduces important concepts related to expedited review of medicinal products applied under non-routine pathways. The guidelines will continue to evolve to reflect the experience gained by the Authority during its implementation. Looking ahead, the document will be updated to take account of the evolution of new therapies and novel outbreaks of diseases.

Adam M. Fimbo
DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. Introduction

Medicines must be proven to be therapeutically effective, safe and of good quality before being licensed for human use. In general, it takes about 180 days for a drug to get approval for marketing authorization. A significant portion of the timeline is spent on review process in order to verify their quality, safety and efficacy.

There may be particular situations where rapid access to medicines needs to be made faster than routine timelines. In such situations, the Authority may process medicinal product applications in an expedited manner, in order to ensure medicines that could save or improve patients' lives are available as soon as possible.

Section 51 (1) of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Act, provides TMDA the authority for expedited processing of medicinal product applications for medicines with potential to address unmet medical needs, especially during a national epidemic, a global pandemic or other similar emergency situations. The medicinal product is registered by the Authority only if: -

a) The availability of the medicine is in the public interest;
b) The medicine is proved to be safe, efficacious and of acceptable quality;
c) The premises and manufacturing operations comply with the current Good Manufacturing Practices requirements;
d) The medicine complies with any other requirements as may be prescribed by the Authority.

Registration of medicines in Tanzania started in 1999. Since then, medicines were assessed and registered through a routine procedure without taking cognizant of situations such as emergencies and orphan medicines which may require special arrangement.

Additionally, Section 124 of the Act gives the Minister responsible for health on advice ofthe Authority and subject to conditions as the Authority may recommend; mandate to exclude any product regulated under the Act from operation of any or all provisions of the Act.

Despite the available provisions in the TMDA Act Cap 219 that gives the Authority mandate to authorize access to unregistered medicines in special situations, there is also a need to ensure that the quality, safety and efficacy of those products meet the acceptable standards and comply with the legal requirements.

These guidelines have therefore been developed to provide technical guidance for both assessors of medicinal products and stakeholders on applications for registration of medicines applied through non-routine procedures. This will facilitate the expedited review

and application of risk-based approach without compromising the overall quality, safety and efficacy of the medicinal products.

2. Purpose

This guideline describes the categories of non-routine processing relevant to medicinal product application, applicable eligible criteria, and procedure of review process by the Authority. This guideline also aims to reduce times on authorization of medicines.

3. Scope

The non-routine pathway of processing, targets medicines that fall under the category of orphan medicines, medicines used in emergence situation and medicines that address unmet medical needs.

This guideline should be read in conjunction with Orphan Medicines Regulations, Guidelines on Emergence Use Authorization, Documents Governing Medicines Review Process provided in form number TMDA/DMC/MRE/038 or any other legal document.

4. Product category

The eligible products for non-routine pathway fall under the following categories:

i. Medicines that are required under emergency situations,
ii. New therapies for the treatment of unmet medical conditions
iii. Medicines where the indications are unproven or unsatisfactory; and
iv. Orphan medicines.

5. Procedure

The procedure for expedited review is optional, based on voluntary approach by applicants and will be considered on a case by case basis based on the benefit – risk consideration. The applicant may make a written request to the authority to consider the medicinal product application for expedited review with supporting data.

5.1 Submission Requirements

5.1.1 General requirements

Each application should be accompanied by a dully filled in application form and an application dossier compiled in accordance with the requirements of product specific guidelines. Where certain information/data is not available, a declaration from the applicant describing the missing data should be provided along with commitment to submit the required information/data once generated.

5.1.2 Specific requirements

The specific data requirements for marketing authorization are based on the type of medicinal product applied through non-routine pathway. The technical data requirement for medicines that are required under emergency situations, are outlined in the Guidelines for Emergency Use Authorization of Medicinal Products, Document number TMDA/MDC/MRE/G/018.

The data required for expedited review of applications for marketing authorization of orphan medicines should meet the requirement and conditions for orphan medicine designation prescribed in the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (Orphan Medicines) Regulations in force at the time of application.

5.2 Expedited review of the application

Upon receipt of the application with a request from the applicant for expedited review, the Authority will assess the eligibility of the application for expedited review. Also, pre-review or screening of the submission to assess completeness will be done on a priority basis.

The Authority may, during the evaluation of the product, require the applicant to submit additional data/information, samples or clarification as the case may be.

Once the application is considered complete, the Authority will decide whether the submission should be subjected to expedited review or routine review. The decision will be communicated to the applicant. The timelines for review of applications are prescribed in specific medicines regulations enforce, guidelines and Client's Service Charter. The review of applications for new therapies for treatment of unmet medical conditions and medicines of which the indication is unproven or unsatisfactory will be expedited as priority medicines.

Assessment shall follow the same principles of Quality, Safety and Efficacy as described in the product specific regulations, guidelines and standard operating procedures.

During review, a risk-based approach may be taken without compromising the safety, quality and efficacy of the product under consideration. In other circumstance a waiver /exemption may be granted for submission of some information/data depending on the specific situations for each category of medicines.

Expedited review under the reliance mechanism shall be performed in accordance to the provisions prescribed in the *Good Reliance Practices Guidelines* and other specific guidelines.

6. Approval of the products

When the Authority is satisfied with the recommendations, may call for an Ad-hoc Technical Committee meeting to peer review the reports and provide further opinions before a final decision is reached.

The decision in favor of marketing authorization of the medicinal product shall be communicated to the applicant and to the public through the TMDA website.

7. Change history

Revision No:	Date	Author	Description of change	Section(s) Modified	Approvals
00	3.04.2023	MMRE	Changed of the revision number from 00 to 01	Cover page	DG
			Changed of the document title from guidance to guideline and the address of the TMDA HQ		
			Introduced section for purpose, foreword, acknowledgment, abbreviation term, product category, procedure expatiated review and approval of products and table of revision	Section 2, 4, 5.2, 6 and 7	
			Added terminologies	Glossary of term	
			Removed some terminologies and changed the format of the document.	Glossary of term, whole document	
			Inconsistencies omitted: 1. timelines for review of medicines for emergency use authorization, vital medicines and priority medicines. 2. timelines included as	Section 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.3	

Revision No:	Date	Author	Description of change	Section(s) Modified	Approvals
			reference to regulations, guidelines, and Clients'Service Charter. 3. Omitted validity of registration orphan medicines. 4. Consideration of registrationby Technical committee meeting. 5. Publishing of products authorized through Emergency Use Authorization.	Section 4 Section 3 Section 5.2	